

Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana: Strategic Plan 2017-2019			
MISSION, VISION & DUTIES			
<p>Mission: To improve the status of children in Indiana.</p> <p>Vision: Every child in Indiana will have a safe and nurturing environment and be afforded opportunities to grow into a healthy and productive adult.</p>			
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES			
Child Safety & Services	Juvenile Justice & Cross-System Youth	Mental Health & Substance Abuse	Educational Outcomes
STRATEGIC GOALS			
Support the well-being of Hoosier children by promoting a continuum of prevention and protection services for vulnerable youth and their families	Promote interagency communication and collaboration to improve prevention, outcomes and address the unique and complex needs of Juvenile Justice and/or cross-system involved youth	Support creative and effective methods of improving assessment, access to treatment, and wrap-around resources for vulnerable youth and households in need of mental health and substance abuse services	Promote interagency collaboration to better connect vulnerable youth with appropriate education and career pathways that lead to successful completion of high school equivalency, post- secondary education, job certification, and sustainable employment
OBJECTIVES			
<p>1.1 Support efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect</p> <p>1.2 Support efforts to ensure the safety of children in state care</p> <p>1.3 Promote programs and services that support older youth with successful transition to independence</p> <p>1.5 Study and evaluate barriers to receipt of Medicaid for prevention, early intervention, and treatment</p> <p>1.6 Promote an improved understanding of the impact of trauma on children and youth and the efficacy of trauma-informed practice</p> <p>1.7 Coordinate and communicate child safety efforts with Indiana Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative (IPQIC)</p> <p>1.9 Study the needs and barriers of kinship caregivers and recommend ways to support those families, including those whose children are not involved with DCS.</p>	<p>2.1 Advocate for increased availability of and access to emergency shelter care and alternative therapeutic placements</p> <p>2.2 Support the enhancement of services across the spectrum (in-home and residential)</p> <p>2.3 Support efforts to decrease youth violence, including assessing the root causes of youth involved in violent crimes and/or crime involving weapons</p> <p>2.4 Study and make recommendations on services to address the complex needs of runaway children and missing children</p> <p>2.5 Study and evaluate whether “status offenders” should be removed from Delinquency code and moved to CHINS code in collaboration with Child Safety & Services Task Force</p> <p>2.6 Support funding for innovative youth programming through expansion and increased funding of the Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council</p> <p>2.7 Support the on-going efforts of the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) workgroup in addressing the identification of exploited juveniles and the coordination of services related to juvenile victims of human trafficking</p>	<p>3.1 Explore policy change to promote integration of behavioral health and primary care for children</p> <p>3.2 Identify and promote evidence-based and other effective supports and services that reduce youth mental health issues and substance abuse</p> <p>3.3 Support effective alternative locations, modalities and treatments for substance abuse and mental health services</p> <p>3.4 Support efforts to increase the number of mental health and substance abuse providers; improve service coordination to simplify delivery of services for children and their families</p> <p>3.5 Support development of models to identify youth at-risk for substance abuse and mental health issues</p> <p>3.6 Engage with Governor’s Commission to Combat Drug Abuse to address issues of children’s use of prescription drugs and children being raised by parents suffering from addiction</p> <p>3.7 Support efforts to ensure access to care / treatment for youth and parents with substance abuse issues, including inpatient, outpatient, and rural coverage as well as services for youth after release from JJ / DYS</p> <p>3.8 Support efforts to prevent youth suicide.</p>	<p>4.1 Explore models to develop an “educational passport” to provide a comprehensive understanding of the educational history of vulnerable children and youth when they move from place to place and school to school</p> <p>4.2 Advocate for additional and improved services integrated in schools to address mental health and wellness</p> <p>4.3 Recommend methods to incentivize schools to help vulnerable youth complete high school</p> <p>4.4 Recommend strategies for promoting a positive learning climate for all students to address disproportionality in school discipline practices and to stop the tide of bullying</p> <p>4.5 Support efforts to develop alternative educational options and resources for youth not able to survive/thrive in a traditional school setting</p> <p>4.6 Study and report on the graduation rate of vulnerable youth</p> <p>4.7 Study and report where youth coming out of the juvenile justice system and/or cross-system youth are being educated</p>